

Arlington Town Meeting — Motion to Amend

Article No. 14

Dated: 4/19/2023

I, Xavid Pretzer, do hereby submit the following Motion to Amend Article 14:

To amend the main motion by inserting the text "between the hours of 9:00 P.M. and 9:00 A.M." after the phrase "in the Town of Arlington".

Comment:

Applied to the recommended vote of the Select Board, the resulting text would be:

It is unlawful for any person to engage in picketing before or about the residence or dwelling of any individual in the Town of Arlington between the hours of 9:00 P.M. and 9:00 A.M.

(This is in the Comment rather than the normative section to make this amendment compatible with the Bunnell Amendment; if both the Bunnell Amendment and this amendment pass the resulting motion will incorporate both properly.)

Arlington has a strong history of activism throughout our history. While I'm sympathetic to the disruption that protest can cause in residential areas, it's important to balance those concerns with the ability for Arlington residents to peacefully protest respectfully. The original proposed bylaw would restrict even peaceful, silent protest more heavily than commercial solicitation and loudspeakers, both of which we permit during the day in our current bylaws, and could ban activities like silently holding a sign near a street corner or ban tenants from protesting rent increases or maintenance issues outside their own homes. By restricting the ban to overnight hours, we align our restriction with the City of Boston and safeguard the right to peacefully protest in Arlington while protecting residents' peace and quiet at night.

Respectfully submitted,

/s/ Xavid Pretzer

Precinct 17

Date Voted: _____

Action Taken: _____